Formation of a National Agriculture Policy

1327. SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate National Agriculture Policy,

(b) whether views of the representatives of farmers poposed to be taken into account in the formation of the policy; and

(c) by when the policy is proposed to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (c) The Prime Minister has been placing emphasis from time to time on accelerated development of agriculture. Different issues are being examined in this context and details are being worked out in consultation with the other concerned Ministries.

Meanwhile, the Seventh Five-Year Plan (1985—90) has been approved by the National Development Council on November 8 and 9, 1985. This plan also outline the perspective of development by 2000 A.D. The broad strategy of perspective development outlined in the Seventh Plan includes increased use of fertiliser and irrigation facilities, improvement in technology, evolving of new high yielding varieties for pulses and oilseeds, introduction of modern management techniques in relation to irrigation and agricultural extension services, reform and revitalisation of the cooperative movement particularly for the benefit of small and marginal farmers, development of dryland farming, use of sophisticated technology in the capture and culture of fish and development of post harvest technologies, etc. Any draft strategy paper on agricultural development on a long-term perspective will have to be prepared in conformity with above national plan objectives. Such a draft, when ready, will be finalised only after the reaction to the draft of all concerned interests, including farmers' representatives, becomes available. No time limit has been set for such an exercise.

Development of horticulture during Seventh Five Year Plan

1328. SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been laying greater emphasis on the developmnt of horticulture during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, what is the amount earmarked for the above purpose;

(c) the major areas on which horticulture development is proposed to be made;

(d) the target set for the plantation of different kinds of fruits to achieve that goal; and

(e) the details of the scheme prepared and incentives proposed to be given to the concerned State Governments to increase areas under different fruit cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. An outlay of Rs. 2500 lakhs has been approved as Central share for the development of horticulture. Cashew, Coconut, Spices, Vegetables and Fruit crops are the major areas of horticulture development during the Seventh Plan.

(d) An annual production of 280 lakh tonnes of fruits has been set as target by the end of Seventh Plan.